

**From:** Blumenfeld.Jared@epamail.epa.gov

**Date:** February 15, 2013 9:27:37 AM PST

**To:** "Jared Blumenfeld" <JaredBlumenfeld@comcast.net>

**Subject: Fw: Follow-up**

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

**From:** Jared Blumenfeld  
**Sent:** 02/15/2013 10:32 AM EST  
**To:** Jared Blumenfeld  
**Subject:** Fw: Follow-up

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

**From:** Jared Blumenfeld  
**Sent:** 02/01/2013 12:45 PM MST  
**To:** [Dan.Bernal@mail.house.gov](mailto:Dan.Bernal@mail.house.gov)  
**Cc:** Brent Maier  
**Subject:** Follow-up  
Dear Dan:

As requested, I am attaching a brief summary of the background and opportunities of switching Federal Agencies to 100% recycled copy paper. I will be in DC next Thursday, February 7th if any of your DC staff want to discuss.

Hoping you are well.

*(See attached file: 100% Recycled Paper Background.docx)*

Jared Blumenfeld  
U.S. EPA  
Regional Administrator  
Pacific Southwest  
415-947-8702

# Federal Government Purchasing 100% Recycled Content Copy Paper

## Background

- EPA's Administrator has responsibility to set federal recycled content procurement recommendations to maximize the use of postconsumer recycled paper (RCRA §6002).
- EPA guidelines for copy paper have not been updated since 1998 when recycled content was increased from 20% to 30%.
- The availability of 100% postconsumer recycled copy paper has expanded significantly in recent years and prices are competitive with other paper choices.
- Multiple mills produce 100% recycled copy paper.
- All of the major federal suppliers and office stores carry 100% recycled copy paper.

## Environmental and Economic Benefits

- Increasing recycled copy paper demand will ultimately increase paper recycling rates:
  - Paper makes up the largest portion of municipal waste generated in the U.S -- 28.5%.
  - U.S. office paper recycling rate was only 56.8% in 2011
  - The U.S. exports 39% of paper collected for recycling (*one of the largest U.S. exports by volume*). As demand for recycled content paper increases, some of the paper being

Sustainability Indicator	Annual Reductions	Equivalent To
GHG Emissions	108.595 million lbs. CO <sub>2</sub> e	9,861 cars
Net Energy Use	565,994 million BTUs	6,220 homes
Water Use	588.975 million gallons	892 Olympic pools
Solid Waste	39.43 million pounds	1,408 garbage trucks
Air Pollutants (SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> , HAP, VOCs, Particulates)	515,999 pounds	20,799 18-wheelers/year
Water Pollutants (TSS, COD, BOD)	84,886 pounds	1,740 homes (construction stormwater)
Wood Use	195,998 tons	1.26 million trees

shipped overseas can be re-directed to U.S. recycled paper mills.

- Federal copy paper procurement guidelines are a proven, cost-effective means of expanding markets for U.S. recycled paper and reducing the cost of recycled paper.
- Impacts will grow as state and local government and business follow the federal government.
- Recycling creates significantly more jobs than landfilling paper.

Rough estimate of environmental benefits of only federal purchasers switching to 100% recycled paper  
Source: Environmental Paper Network's Paper Calculator, Version 3.2, <http://www.papercalculator.org>

**Contact:** Timonie Hood, U.S. EPA Region 9, 415-972-3282, [hood.timonie@epa.gov](mailto:hood.timonie@epa.gov)